

### A Blueprint For Reconstructing Our Christian Lives (Neh. Ch. 3)

**Proposition:** By following the pattern laid out for us in Nehemiah Ch.3, every one of God's people can begin to repair the broken walls and gates of our Christian experience.

- I. The Gate of **Salvation** - The Sheep Gate (Vs. 1)
- II. The Gate of **Seeking and Saving** - The Fish Gate (Vs. 3)
- III. The Gate of **Statutes** - The Old Gate (Vs. 6)
- IV. The Gate of **Self-abasement** - The Valley Gate (Vs. 13)
- V. The Gate of **Sanitization** - The Dung Gate (Vs. 14)
- VI. The Gate of the **Spirit** - The Fountain Gate (Vs. 15)
- VII. The Gate of the **Scriptures** - The Water Gate (Vs. 26)
- VIII. The Gate of the **Struggle** - The Horse Gate (Vs. 28)
- IX. The Gate of the **Second Coming** - The East Gate (Vs. 29)
- X. The Gate of **Sentencing** - The Miphkad (Judgment) Gate (Vs. 31)

A Blueprint for Reconstructing Our Christian Lives  
(Nehemiah Ch 3) - One of the amazing things about American homes is that the huge majority of them are built using completely standardized building practices. One reason for this consistency is a set of uniform building codes that apply across the country. Well although Ch 3 may seem boring and repetitutive reading if we look closely we will begin to see a blueprint, a pattern to follow for rebuilding our walls. These walls that would protect us from external threats, and enclose us internally nearer to our God. By following

I. The Gate of Salvation - vs 1 The Sheep Gate. It was through this gate that the animals sacrificed in temple worship were brought into the city. These animals were a picture of the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. If we are to follow the pattern of rebuilding in Neh 3, then we are to start at the place of redemption and salvation at the foot of the Cross. 1 Peter 3: 18. If you've never been through the Sheep gate, a place of faith + trust

II. The Gate of Seeking + Saving - vs 3 The Fish Gate - Do you remember what the Lord Jesus told his disciples in MK 1: 17 Come after me and I will make you fishers of men. Isn't that the natural response



the salvation? One of the first thoughts you have is: I want my loved ones to know what I got. This is not something you graduate to it is an essential gate for every child of God. Are we as a church making <sup>(4)</sup> a real tangible effort?

III. The Gate of Statutes vs 6 - The old gate sometimes called the Damascus gate speaks to us of the old statutes of God's word. I've heard preachers talk about old preachers and say "They have stuck to the stuff." <sup>(5)</sup> They have stayed to the old statute of God's word Jer 6:16. We live in a day when it is fashionable to cast aside the long held Bible statutes and float along on every <sup>(6)</sup> fact that breezes by. I believe this book is the infallible in inerrant

IV. The Gate of Self Abasement vs 13 - This is the valley Gate - Now valleys in the scriptures often describe a place of humilitude, or self abasement. We see the Lord Jesus in Phil 8 humbled himself and became a man and a servant to men. Furthermore he humbled himself and became <sup>(7)</sup> obedient unto death. Pride is one of our worst enemies. James 4:6 We must come to a place where we are completely submitted to Christ. Not outward false pride

V. The Gate of Sanitization - The Dung gate! vs 14. The Dung gate is believed to be the gate of the city where all the waste and refuse was taken out of to cleanse the

- 1) By following the pattern laid out for us in Nehemiah Ch.3, every one of God's people can begin to repair the broken walls and gates of our Christian experience. We can begin at the...
- 2) 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
- 3) ...faith and trust in the Lord Jesus, then I invite you to Come! Repent and believe! One interesting note concerning the sheep gate is that there were no bars or locks on the door. There are no locks or bars; you just come in by faith in response to the invitation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4) ...real tangible effort to reach others around us for the Saviour? Do repairs need to be made to the fish gate?
- 5) Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.
- 6) ...inerrant word of God. I believe that salvation comes into a person's repentant heart by grace through faith apart from works. I still believe that salvation changes a person on the inside and out. I believe a child of God should look, talk, and act like a child of God! I believe that the saints of God ought to assemble every time we have established to do so. Is the old gate broken down?
- 7) James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
- 8) Reminds me of the story that is told of a man who said to his friend one day, "I have been trying to be humble and at last I have succeeded." The friend replied, "Well, I know you must be very proud of that!" The man replied, "I sure am!" No! But a true broken and contrite heart!



1) John 13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit... 2

Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2) John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

3) Speaking of the church: Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4) Psalms 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

city. We have been cleansed by Calvary and 1 Jn. tells us that that blood cleanses us from all sin. And yet we do still sin. We need not another Calvary experience but a cleansing experience. Jesus washing feet Peter wash me all over. Jesus; Jn 13:10 Paul the apost

VI. The Gate of the Spirit - VS 15 The Fountain Gate. Now flowing springing water in the Bible is representative of the Holy Spirit of God. In Jn 7: 37-39 we find this picture portrayed! Jesus has been glorified we can now enter through the fountain gate. Are you yielding your life completely to the Holy Spirit? Are you being filled w/ the Spirit? Controlled by the Spirit of God! Or do you find yourself after Quenching the Spirit of God?

VII. The Gate of the Scriptures - VS 26 The Water Gate - Moving water; H.S. Pools, or still water is a type of the word of God! Eph 5: 26 ③ Jn 15: 3 If you will notice there are no repairs mentioned in our verse. The word of God needs no additions, attacks or amendments. It stands true and as Ps 119: 89 says ④ Is 40: 8; Mk 13: 31 You don't need to add to God's word you don't need to take away from God's word, all you need to do is accept God's word and go thru the gate!

VIII. The Gate of the Struggle - VS 28 The Horse Gate - The horses would have come in thru this gate because of war, conflict, struggle



21 in 2:3-4 This Christian life is a battle field in an evil world. It is a daily conflict. We battle against the world flesh devil, principalities powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness. Gal 5:17 says there is an internal battle. Have you lost this battle in such a way that you are a slave to sin? 6:12

### IX. The Gate of the Second Coming

VS 29 The East Gate - Now in scripture the East signifies the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Math 24:27 Are you looking, watching, waiting? Maybe the reason our walls are in such disrepair is that the promise of Christ's coming is not a reality in your own heart. What a Question to apply daily to our lives: If Jesus were to come today what would

### X. The Gate of Sentencing - VS 31

The Miphkad gate - The word Miphkad means "review or appointed place for Judgment". This is probably the gate where judges settled disputes and controversies. A place of registry for any new comer to be inspected. A place of return for soldiers coming from battle. This gate is a reminder of the Judgment seat of Christ, where Christians will give account for their life of service. 2 Cor 5:10

XI. Closing - VS 32 We end right back where we started. Christ is both the end and beginning.

- 1) 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
- 2) Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
- 3) Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- 4) Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
- 5) ...what would he find in our lives! Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:
- 6) 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Have you forgotten there will be a judgment seat examination? Not of our sins but of our service. Is that gate broken down?
- 7) ...end and beginning of our Christian lives. He is the alpha and omega, the A to Z of life. He is the beginning and the end. The sum total of life. Colossians 1:17-18 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.